

U.S.S.N. 10/065,639

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3707 (LC 0101 PUS)

REMARKS

Claims 12-17 and 19 are currently pending in the above application.

Claims 12, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hudkins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,296,733). Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection. In traversing this rejection, Applicants note that originally presented claims 14 and 15 were presented as method claims, contrary to the Examiner's analysis pursuant to the telephonic conference, as the first and second ethylene-copolymer modified the recyclable, rubber-like thermoplastic material "introduced" in claim 13. The step of "introducing" a material is a method step. Thus, claims 14 and 15 should have been searched as method steps and, according to the Examiner, should have been sufficient to overcome the §102 rejection.

However, in an effort to overcome the Examiner's rejection, and pursuant to Applicants' telephonic conference on August 30, 2004, Applicants have herein amended claims 12-16 to positively recite the ethylene-octene copolymer formed using a metallocene catalyst as a method step as the Examiner suggests. As the Examiner has indicated in the August 19, 2004 Advisory Action that "such an action would be sufficient to overcome the 102 rejection, and would likely, short of an updated search, overcome the 103 rejection," Applicants respectfully suggest that claims 12-17 and 19 are now allowable over the cited prior art.

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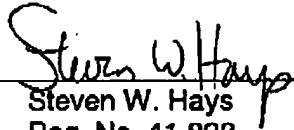
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The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (248) 223-9500 if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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